



Rabies Control Board Meeting Minutes “Special Meeting”

Meeting Date: June 3, 2015

Board Member Attendees: Scott Marshall, DVM, C.H. Hannafin, DVM, Utpala Bandy, MD (DOH Designee), Scott Scofield, (Providence ACO), Charles Brown, (DEM Designee), Tom Gulluscio, (Animal Welfare)

Board Member Absent: Kevin Breene, (Livestock Farmer)

Non-Board Attendees: Chief Blanchard, DEM Enforcement, Dr. Leibowitz, DOH and John Ruggieri

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM by Dr. Marshall followed by roll call of all in attendance. Business will take place at this meeting as quorum was met.

NEW BUSINESS - Policies and procedures pertaining to variance procedures and pertaining to animals that are overdue for booster vaccine.

Current Variance Process:

A sub-committee has been created with Dr. Scott Marshall, Dr. Christopher Hannafin, and ACO Scott Scofield to streamline the process of variances, make sure they are complete, and process them without the RCB having to meet. More complicated or difficult variances will be brought to the quarterly meeting where owners are welcome to attend plus it was suggested that the sub-committee meet on a monthly basis. Dr. Marshall agreed and noted the sub-committee could meet more frequently if necessary and he would submit changes discussed to our legal department. Dr. Bandy suggested posting clearer regulations and guidance on the website and also sending this information to RIVMA.

Motion to approve - Dr. Hannafin motioned and ACO Scott Scofield second; Motion passed unanimously.

Current Vaccinations:

Dr. Marshall – Dogs that are overdue should follow simple rules that account to all situations. Discussed was changing the rules of expiration to include a buffer of up to 6 months but this would only relate to a three year vaccine and that the one year vaccine would not be allowed a buffer. This would only work if the person has proof of the date of vaccination.

Dr. Hannafin spoke with Merial veterinarians and scientists regarding their labels pertaining to doses and schedule to administer. If the schedule on the label is not followed the company will not accept liability. Further discussion continued about time and effect of the rabies vaccine. The Board argued that any buffer period would be related solely to issuance of a subsequent vaccination certificate and the expiration date thereof, not for management of exposures. Dr. Marshall stated that when they changed the regulations to allow issuance of a 3-year certificate it removed the built in buffer period. The discussion turned to revaccination of an overdue animal that has no history of exposure and has proof of being last vaccinated with a 3-year certificate being issued and allowing a 6-month buffer in those cases

Motion to amend: Dr. Hannafin motion to amend the regulation to include a 6 month buffer on a 3 year rabies vaccine certificate and re-educate the veterinary staff. Second by Dr. Marshall. Motion passed unanimously.

SHL Submission of Samples:

Dr. Leibowitz stated they have been receiving submission forms that have no link to containers that are dropped off for testing. Lab submission protocol asks that a container be sealed and have a label on it that refers to the submission form and that all forms should be signed by the person who dropped off the container. A new form is being created and will be forwarded when completed. Dr. Marshall agreed to send a letter to all ACO and Police Chiefs, and Charlie Brown will send a letter pest control and wildlife officials, asking them to use the new form and submit with some form of identification on both the container and form. Dr. Leibowitz also requested that there are assurances that every submission form is signed.

NEXT MEETING is set for _September 16th, 2015 @ 10:30 AM – Conference Room 370A

Motion to adjourn – Tom Gulluscio motion to adjourn - Dr. Bandy second, meeting adjourned.